
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

FRIENDS OF CEDAR MESA,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR et al.,

Defendants.

SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS
ALLIANCE,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAVID BERNHARDT et al.,

Defendants.

**CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULING
ORDER IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE
CASE UNDER DUCivR 7-4**

Case No. 4:19-cv-00013-DN-PK

District Judge David Nuffer

Magistrate Judge Paul Kohler

Pursuant to Local Rule 7-4(a)(5), and the Court's May 6, 2019 Order Granting Motion to Consolidate Related Cases,¹ the parties to these consolidated cases jointly submit the following proposed consolidated case schedule:

1. Agency Decision(s) Challenged:

- a. Plaintiff Friends of Cedar Mesa challenges Federal Defendants' Final Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Section 106

¹ Docket no. 25, filed May 6, 2019.

Cultural Resources Report, Decision Record, and subsequent lease issuances for the BLM Utah March 2018 Lease Sale.

b. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance challenges Federal Defendants' Final Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Decision Record, and subsequent lease issuances for the BLM Utah March 2018 Lease Sale, as well as the Determination of NEPA Adequacy, Decision Record and lease issuance for the BLM Utah December 2018 Lease Sale.

2. Plaintiffs' Ground for Challenging Agency Decision:

a. Plaintiff Friends of Cedar Mesa contends that Federal Defendants violation the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by failing, *inter alia*, to properly identify and analyze the adverse effects to cultural resources in the lease area; violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to take a "hard look" at the environmental impacts of oil and gas leasing, failing to consider appropriate alternatives, and failing to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by failing to initiate or reinitiate consultation over the impacts of the March 2018 lease sale. These failures were arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law. [5 U.S.C. § 706\(2\)\(A\)](#).

b. Plaintiff Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), contends that Federal Defendants violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to analyze or disclose (1) reasonably foreseeable downstream greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that will result from development of the leases, and (2) cumulative impacts of its leasing decisions to national monuments and cultural resources, among other resource values. SUWA also contends that Federal Defendants violated NEPA and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act by

unlawfully restricting public opportunities to participate in the December 2018 lease sale. These failures were arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law. [5 U.S.C. § 706\(2\)\(A\)](#).

3. Agency's Reasons in Support of Agency Decision: The Bureau of Land Management's May 17, 2018 Decision Record (DR), Finding of No Significant impact, and the February 5, 2019 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) authorizing BLM to issue oil and gas leases were not arbitrary and capricious because the DR and DNA were based on information and evidence that complied with its obligations under NEPA, NHPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the Mineral Leasing Act, among other things. Moreover, Plaintiffs request that this Court declare unlawful and set aside the Environmental Assessment and other documents that were prepared to assist BLM make its final leasing decision do not constitute "final agency action," which is a jurisdictional prerequisite to waive the United States' sovereign immunity under [5 U.S.C. § 702](#). Therefore, this court should affirm BLM's May 17, 2018 and February 5, 2019 decisions in their entirety.

4. Dates of Filing of Relevant Documents:

Administrative Record: 7/15/2019

Motion to Amend Complaint: 7/26/2019

Amended Agency Statement: 8/5/2019

5. Objections to contents of administrative record shall be filed by: 9/13/2019.

6. Response to objections to administrative record shall be filed by: 14 days from the date of Plaintiff's motion.

7. Plaintiffs shall file their respective "Opening Briefs" by: 10/8/2019 or 45 days after the resolution of any objections to, or supplementations to, the record, whichever is later.

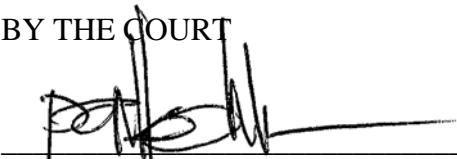
8. Defendants shall file a consolidated “Opposition Brief” by: 11/8/2019 or 28 days from the filing of Plaintiff's Opening Brief, whichever is later.

9. Plaintiffs may file their respective “Reply Briefs” no later than: 11/29/2019 or 14 days from the filing of the agency's Opposition Brief, whichever is later.

10. Oral argument on the parties' briefs, if necessary, will be scheduled after briefing is complete.

Amendments to this Scheduling Order shall only be approved for good cause shown.

Signed May 29, 2019.

BY THE COURT


Paul Kohler
United States Magistrate Judge